

Marlborough Borough.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1944

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 25th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 49/45 dated March 19th, 1945.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

Victoria Road, Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Census 1931 : 3,492.

Population—Estimated Mid. 1944—5,387

Area, 1,496 Acres

Rateable Value : £37,949

Sum represented by Penny Rate : £152 9 6

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1944 :
1,305

Births, 1944.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live	39	48	87 (10 Illegitimate)
Still	0	1	1

Birth Rate, 1944.	England and Wales
Live	Live
Still	Still
14.2	17.6
0.18	0.5

Birth Rate	Average last 10 years	13.02
England and Wales	„ „ 10 „	15.3

Deaths : Males, 28. Females 22. Total, 50.

Death Rate	9.3	Average last 10 years	10.9
England and Wales	„ 11.6	„ „ 10 „	11.9

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 5
Females 1. Total, 6.

Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)	68.9
England and Wales	46.0
Infantile Mortality Average last 10 years	47.3
England and Wales „ „ 10 „	53.5

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total death
Scarlet Fever	13	13	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0
Pneumonia	18	4	2
Erysipelas	9	4	0
Measles	304	0	0
Whooping Cough	34	0	0

Scarlet Fever. Thirteen cases were notified during the year and were fairly distributed during the whole of the year. Six of them arose in an institution in the Town, all were treated in the Isolation Hospital and all recovered without ill effect.

Diphtheria. No case of this disease was notified and in fact no confirmed case has been notified in the Town since 1941 when two cases were confirmed.

Puerperal Pyrexia. One case was notified but was only slight and recovered, it was really a case of pneumonia arising during the puerperium.

Pneumonia. Eighteen cases were notified and of these four were treated in Hosiptal, of these two died, one a child of two months in an institution.

Erysipelas. Nine cases were notified and four of them were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, all recovered.

Measles. The Town passed through an epidemic of this disease which lasted practically during the whole year; 304 cases were notified including a considerable number from the College which did not escape the epidemic, but except for those at the Collège none were treated in hospital and no deaths were recorded.

Whooping Cough. Thirty-four cases were notified and these were spread evenly over the year up to the beginning of September, none were treated in Hospital and none died.

Tuberculosis. Thirteen cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one case of tuberculosis of Glands were notified to me during the year ; of these two died before the end of the year and one was a transfer from another County.

The ages were as follows :

PULMONARY.

Males : Two between 15—20 ; One between 20—25 ; Two between 35—45 ; 1 between 45—55 ; 1 over 65.

Females : Two between 15—20 ; One between 20—25 ; One between 45—55 ; One between 55—65.

NON-PULMONARY.

Male : One, age 6 years.

Deaths : One male age 40 and one Female age 56.

Immunisation Against Diphtheria. This campaign continues and during 1944 49 children under five years and nine between 5 and 15 were freshly immunised. This brings the percentage of those immunised to 61.8% under five years and 83.5% between five and fifteen.

Housing.

Like most other places the Housing situation in the Borough has been causing the Council considerable trouble owing to overcrowding and lack of facilities for getting repairs done and so only urgent matters have been dealt with.

Only on two occasions has it been necessary to take statutory action covering items of disrepair and then it was necessary for the Council to do them by direct labour.

The POST WAR HOUSING PROPOSALS of the Council are as follows :

The Council have purchased a site on the south side of London Road, 32 acres in extent which it is proposed to develop during the next ten years. A lay-out of this estate has been prepared showing an ultimate development of 191 houses, 50 of which it is proposed to erect during the first two years.

The Council are members of the Swindon Group Scheme for the Advance Preparation of Housing Sites. The Group has obtained tenders and entered into a contract for a standard type of road suitable for this class of estate and it is anticipated that work on the Marlborough estate for roads, sewers and other services sufficient for the first two year programme will be commenced at an early date.

Temporary Houses.

Application was made in March (1945) to the Ministry of Health for twenty temporary Houses, which was granted.

It is proposed to erect fourteen of these houses on an existing housing site at Manton and six at Cherry Orchard.

Work in connection with the construction of Roads and Paths, Sewers and Water mains has been carried out by direct labour and the sites handed over to the Ministry of Works. It is anticipated that work on the erection of the houses will commence at any moment.

NOTE.—Work commenced on Monday, July 23, 1945.

Water Supply.

There has been no alteration in the supply to the Town.

A supply is provided to a Military Camp at Salisbury Hill. This supply is taken from the reservoir through a meter and pumped by the Military to serve several units encamped in the neighbourhood. A metered supply is also provided to the Military Hospital Camp on the Common.

This water is efficiently chlorinated and five samples taken during the year all proved to be of good quality and free from any evidence whatever of harmful pollution.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Sewage Works continue to function satisfactorily since reconstruction and consistently produce a good effluent.

During the year experiments were initiated in the manufacture of Straw Sludge Compost. These experiments proved successful, and a useful substitute for stable manure is now being produced out of waste materials and is being sold to Allotment Holders and others.

Rivers and Streams.

The section of the River Kennet for which the Council is responsible was thoroughly cleaned out and weeded during the year, and no nuisance was caused.

Public Cleansing.

House refuse was collected once weekly by motor vehicle.

Paper, metal, bones and other salvageable materials were collected and disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the Government Scheme.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

During 1944 the Council commenced carrying out their duties under the Infestation Order 1943. For that purpose, in conjunction with the Rural District Councils of Pewsey and Marlborough and Ramsbury, a person was appointed to undertake the destruction of rats and mice.

Sixty-eight premises in the Borough were disinfested during the year and good results were obtained.

Swimming Bath.

Water is pumped from the river into the bath and is frequently changed, in addition the water is chlorinated by means of the addition of "Chloros" and the amount of free Chlorine tested daily by means of the Orthotolodine Test.

Milk Supply.

The milk supply of the Town remains satisfactory.

Three of the five producers have "Special Designation" licences and samples were taken regularly by the County Council Inspectors to see that the required standard was maintained.

Twenty samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results were as follows :—

<i>Milk</i>	<i>Samples Taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Tuberculin Tested ..	5	2	3
Pasteurised	3	3	—
Ordinary	12	9	3

In one case three consecutive unsatisfactory samples of Tuberculin Tested milk were obtained, but after investigation the source of the contamination was found and immediately rectified. Since that time no further trouble has arisen.

All other bad samples were retaken within a fortnight and proved satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

	No. of Inspections. 1	No. of Defects. 2	Informal Notices. 3	Statutory Notices. 4	Remedied by 3. 5	Remedied by 4. 6	Remedied after verbal instructions only. 7
Nuisances ...	327	54	40	1	34	2	10
Slaughter- houses ...	23	5	3	—	3	—	2
Knackers' Yards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is pre- pared ...	35	3	—	—	—	—	3
Cowsheds ...	44	8	3	—	3	—	5
Dairies and Milkstores							
Butcher's Shops ...	24	5	4	—	4	—	1
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Bakehouses	26	4	2	—	2	—	2
Factory Inspection	18	4	3	—	3	—	1
Totals	498	84	55	1	49	2	25

Milk and Daries.

Number of Wholesale Producers registered	(1944)	5
Number of Retail Purveyors regisèered	"	9
Number of Certificates issued Producers	"	—
Number of Certificates issued Retailer	"	—
Approximate number of cows	"	150

Meat and Other Foods.

The Ministry of Food Scheme continued to operate throughout the year. The total number of condemnations was 313, 59 of which were in respect of entire carcasses.

The total meat condemned was 18 tons 3 cwt. 2 qrs. which was approximately 5% of the total meat inspected. This compares with 17 tons 14 cwt. condemned last year.

There was also $8\frac{1}{2}$ cwts. of other foodstuffs mainly tinned foods, which was condemned during the year.

The local slaughterhouse officials continue to show courtesy and co-operation as in the past, thus assisting the work of inspection.

Notices received of regular slaughter	..	..	..	..	—
" " " casual slaughter	..	..	..	..	7
Number of Condemnations	..	..	..	..	313

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.	Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All Causes	28	22	Appendicitis	..	..
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	..	..	Other digest. diseases	..	1
Cerebrospinal Fever	..	..	Nephritis	..	..
Scarlet Fever	..	..	Puerp. and postabort. sepsis	..	..
Whooping Cough	..	..	Other maternal causes	..	..
Diphtheria	..	..	Premature birth	..	..
Tuberc. of Respir. syst.	1	1	Cong. malf. birth inj. Inf. dis.	3	1
Other form of Tuberc.	..	..	Suicide	..	1
Syphilitic Diseases	..	..	Road Traffic Act	..	..
Influenza	..	..	Other violent causes	..	..
Measles	..	..	All other causes	4	4
Ac. Polio-myelitis and Enceph.	..	..	Deaths of Infants under 1 year—	..	..
Ac. Inf. Enceph.	..	1	Total	5	1
Cancer of b. cav; and	..	..	Legitimate	5	1
oesoph (M.)	..	..	Illegitimate	..	..
uterus (F)	..	1	Live Births	..	..
Cancer of stomach and	..	..	Total	39	48
duodenum	1	..	Legitimate	34	43
Cancer of breast	..	1	Illegitimate	5	5
Cancer of all other sites	5	..	Stillbirths	..	..
Diabetes	..	..	Total	..	1
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	3	..	Legitimate	..	1
Heart disease	4	5	Illegitimate	..	..
Other dis. of circ. syst.	2	2	Population	..	5,387
Bronchitis	1	2			
Pneumonia	1	1			
Other Resp. diseases	1	..			
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	1			
Diarrhoea under two years	..	..	